

Message Text

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VN VS UN

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BRIEFING OF DIPLOMATS

SUMMARY. NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE REPS JULY 24 BRIEFED HEADS OF MISSIONS DUALY ACCREDITED TO HANOI. GAVE REPORT ON CURRENT SITUATIONS IN NORTH AND SOUTH; DECLARED DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY ASIAN; SOUGHT SUPPORT FOR UN MEMBERSHIP, AND CAREFULLY ESCHEWED HOSTILE COMMENT ABOUT UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. AUSTRIAN CHARGE HAS TOLD US ABOUT BRIEFING GIVEN HERE MORNING JULY 24 BY NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE TO HEADS OF MISSIONS HERE DUALY ACCREDITED TO HANOI. MEETING WAS CONVENED WITH ONLY 24 HOURS' NOTICE. ABOUT 25 AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES ATTENDED.

2. NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE CHARGE JOINTLY CONDUCTED BRIEFING, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY Q&A PERIOD. MEETING LASTED ABOUT HOUR AND HALF. ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN, NORTH VIETNAMESE AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE EACH GAVE SEPARATE SUMMARIES OF CURRENT POLITICAL AND
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ECONOMIC SITUATIONS IN NORTH AND SOUTH. NORTH VIET-

NAMESE, WITH SOUTHERN COLLEAGUE FOR MOST PART SILENT, ALSO MADE PRESENTATION ON FOREIGN RELATIONS OF TWO VIETNAMS. HE STRESSED DESIRE TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, EMPHASIZING ASIAN COUNTRIES, AND SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO LAOS AND CAMBODIA. SPOKE WARMLY ALSO OF NON-ALIGNED.

3. NORTH VIETNAMESE GAVE SOLO PRESENTATION ON UN APPLICATIONS, EMPHASIZING HOPE THAT ALL PRESENT WOULD REPORT FULLY TWO VIETNAMS' REQUEST FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF EARLY FULL MEMBERSHIP IN UN.

4. AUSTRIAN STATED THAT BOTH VIETNAMESE WERE REMARKABLY RESTRAINED IN REFERENCES TO THE UNITED STATES. SOUTH VIETNAMESE BRIEFING ON CURRENT SITUATION DID REFER TO DIFFICULTIES IN RECONSTRUCTION CREATED BY USG INTERFERENCE IN SOUTH'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND BY PROBLEMS FROM RESIDUAL GVN "PUPPETS," BUT EVEN THESE REFERENCES WERE LOW KEYED AND SURPRISINGLY MATTER OF FACT. IN REGARD TO UN, NORTH VIETNAMESE DID REFER TO POSSIBLE US OPPOSITION TO TWO VIETNAMS' MEMBERSHIP NOW, BUT ALLUSION TO POSSIBILITY OF US VETO WAS COUCHED IN SIMILARLY MATTER-OF-FACT TERMS AND SEEMED TO AUSTRIAN TO BE VERY DELIBERATE EFFORT TO AVOID FLAVOR OF HOSTILITY TO USG.

5. AFTER PRESENTATIONS BY TWO VIETNAMESE REPS, DANISH AMBASSADOR, PICKING UP AN OMISSION THAT MANY HAD NOTED, ASKED VIETNAMESE WHY, IN COURSE OF LENGTHY PRESENTATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF CURRENT VIETNAMESE SITUATION, VIETNAMESE HAD NOT ONCE USED TERM "REUNIFICATION." NORTH VIETNAMESE ALONE REPLIED, STATING THAT REUNIFICATION PRINCIPLE WAS SO PROFOUNDLY HELD BY HIMSELF AND SAIGON COLLEAGUE THAT TERM DID NOT NEED TO BE ARTICULATED IN SUCH A SESSION. HE THEN STRESSED FULL CONFIDENCE THAT REUNIFICATION WOULD TAKE PLACE AND ADDED, IN APPARENTLY SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT REMARK, THAT IF A TIME PERIOD WERE REQUIRED HE WOULD SAY "FIVE YEARS." ZAMBIAN REP, REFERRING TO POSSIBILITY OF US VETO OF TWO VIETNAMS' UN MEMBERSHIP, ASKED VIETNAMESE

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IF THEY WOULD NOT RISK NET LOSS BY APPLYING FOR ENTRY NOW WITH PROSPECT OF BEING REFUSED ENTRY BECAUSE OF US OPPOSITION. EVEN IN RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, NORTH VIETNAMESE ESCHEWED PROVOCATIVE OR HOSTILE REPLY. HE DID, HOWEVER, REFER TO PRECEDENT OF UN MEMBERSHIP FOR TWO GERMANIES WHEN BOTH PARTS WERE IN AGREEMENT UPON DUAL ENTRY AND WENT ON TO CONTRAST GERMAN AND VIETNAMESE SITUATIONS WITH THAT OF TWO KOREAS.

PRINCIPAL POINT WAS THAT BOTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS
WERE READY TO JOIN UN NOW AND THIS IS NOT THE CASE
WITH TWO KOREAS.
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